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## Answer

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January 11, 1962

6:42 p.m.

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FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1922, JANUARY 11, 7 PM

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PRIORITY

EYES ONLY SECRETARY

HAVE ASKED SEE GROMYKO TOMORROW OR AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE  
YOUR TEL 1616 MOST HELPFUL.

1) RE PARA 7, DO NOT THINK SOVIETS HAVE ANY IMPRESSION OF UNDEE ANXIETY ON OUR PART EXCEPT HEALTHY APPRECIATION WE CONSIDER PRESENT TENSION IN BERLIN DANGEROUS. I CONSIDER PRESENT PACE OF TALKS ABOUT RIGHT. BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD REACT STRONGLY ANY INDICATION WE ATTEMPTING STALL. AT FIRST TALK WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL 1:30 GROMYKO OFFERED. CONTINUE AFTER 1/2 HOUR BREAK AND IT WAS I WHO SUGGESTED CONCLUDING FIRST TALK AT THAT POINT.

2) RE PARA 8. IT WAS INFORMATION FROM ROBERTS OF BRITISH THINKING THAT STIMULATED MY SUGGESTION OF BERLIN PROTECTORATE.

3) RE PARA 14. ESSENTIAL POINT IN MY VIEW IS THAT SOVIETS NOT GET IDEA THAT IN PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY WE HAVE ANY THOUGHT OF NEW ESCAPE ROUTE. SINCE SEEMS UNLIKELY WE WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PRESENT FORMAL TEXT NOW WOULD APPEAR IMPORTANT ONLY THAT WE STATE THIS IS NOT OUR INTENTION.

4) RE PARA 15, I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT ALL-BERLIN SOLUTION ON ANY TERMS SOVIETS COULD POSSIBLY ACCEPT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR US. TO MENTION ONLY FEW OF DRAWBACKS, IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ENTAIL CREATION OF THRID GERMANY, PROBLEM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD BE EVEN MORE ACUTE THAN IN WEST BERLIN ALONE, PROBLEM OF ACCESS EQUALLY DIFFICULT AND GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH ADMINISTRATION AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATION.

ALTHOUGH

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-2- 1922, JANUARY 11, 7 PM FROM MOSCOW

ALTHOUGH SOVIETS PREPARED ALLOW WEST BERLIN MAINTAIN ECONOMIC TIES WITH WEST GERMANY THEY WOULD SURELY OBJECT TO THEM IN CASE OF ALL-BERLIN SOLUTION AND WOULD PROBABLY OBJECT TO EXCLUSIVE FOREIGN REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN BY FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, SINCE MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER THIS WORKABLE SOLUTION AND IT WOULD INDEED BE ADVISABLE TO HAVE THIRD ALTERNATIVE FOR SOVIETS TO CONSIDER BEFORE FINAL BREAKDOWN I HAD THOUGHT THAT BEFORE TERMINATION OF MY TALKS I MIGHT THROW OUT SUGGESTION IN GENERAL TERMS THAT PERHAPS WE COULD EXAMINE CONFEDERATION OF BERLIN SOLUTION. MY THOUGHT WAS WE MIGHT KEEP FROM CONCLUSIVELY EXCLUDING POSSIBILITY ALL-BERLIN SOLUTION EVEN IF CURRENT TALKS SHOULD LEAD TO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ALONG LINES OUR PRESENT THINKING.

5) WHAT I HAD IN MIND IS THAT GROMYKO REJECTED ALL-BERLIN SOLUTION ON BASIS SOCIAL SYSTEMS. CONFEDERATION IDEA WOULD MAINTAIN BOTH SYSTEMS FOR PRESENT BUT WOULD HAVE AREA OF JOINT ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT IN PRACTICE GRADUALLY BE EXPANDED. TO BE ATTRACTIVE TO SOVIETS HOWEVER BELIEVE CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DRESSING UP OF APPEARANCE OF FREE CITY IDEA WOULD BE NECESSARY. FOR EXAMPLE NAME MIGHT BE "FREE CITY OF CONFEDERATED BERLIN." SOME JOINT BODY MIGHT BE CALLED "ALL-BERLIN CITY COUNCIL." INITIAL POWERS TO BE GIVEN SUCH BODY WOULD BE EXTREMELY LIMITED; HOWEVER OCCUPATION WOULD IN PART CONTINUE AS WELL AS MAIN LINES OF CURRENT ECONOMIC TIES OF BOTH PARTS OF CITY. ALTHOUGH I DOUBT THERE IS GREAT DEAL IN THIS IDEA THERE IS SOME CHANCE IT MIGHT APPEAL TO SOVIETS SINCE I SUSPECT WALL IS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THEM, THERE IS NOT MUCH CHANCE THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT OUR CURRENT PROPOSALS AND THEY RECOGNIZE DANGERS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR OWN ANNOUNCED PLANS.

6. AFTER KHRUSHCHEV RETURNS TO MOSCOW AND PARTICULARLY IF CURRENT TALKS SEEM NEAR IMPASSE IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE K WILL SEND FOR ME. ALTHOUGH YOUR HELPFUL SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS GIVE ME MUCH TO GO ON, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FURTHER WHAT LINE I SHOULD TAKE WITH HIM IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR. MY CHIEF SUGGESTION WOULD BE THAT I MIGHT BE AUTHORIZED TELL HIM FRANKLY ON PERSONAL BASIS SITUATION DESCRIBED

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DEPTEL 1523 REGARDING "OTHER ISSUES." IN FACT THINK IT MAY  
BECOME NECESSARY DO THIS WITH GROMYKO.

7) MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM MY CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS IS TO GET  
GROMYKO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER IMPROVED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT  
GIVING GREATER INDICATION WE PREPARED CONSIDER SOME CHANGE  
IN CURRENT STATUS BERLIN.

THOMPSON

KEA

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